

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein the method is being used to read the rewritable storage medium in a read-only optical disk drive, and when the acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on a kind of error information obtained in the acquiring step.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both a kind of error information obtained in the first acquiring step and the acquired second specific information.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The medium judgment method of claim 3 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both error information obtained in the first acquiring step and error information obtained in the second acquiring step.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein the rewritable storage medium is being used in a read-only optical disk drive, and when the acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on a kind of error information obtained in the acquiring step.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area-when the first specific information is copied;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both a kind of error information obtained in the first acquiring step and the acquired second specific information.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both error information obtained in the first acquiring step and error information obtained in the second acquiring step.

11. (Currently amended) A medium judgment computer program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on a kind of error information obtained in the acquiring step.

Claim 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A medium judgment computer program causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both a kind of error information obtained in the first acquiring step and the acquired second specific information.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The medium judgment computer program of claim 13 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both error information obtained in the first acquiring step and error information obtained in the second acquiring step.

16. (Currently amended) An optical disk drive which determines authorization of a rewritable optical disk having a read-only area and a rewritable area, comprising:

a system control unit controlling the entire optical disk drive;

an optical head irradiating a light beam to the disk and performing reading/writing of information with the disk by the control of the system control unit;

a motor rotating the disk;

a position control unit performing a position control of the optical head and a rotation control of the motor by the control of the system control unit; and

a signal processing unit performing signal processing of data read from the disk by the control of the system control unit,

the system control unit comprising:

an acquiring unit acquiring a specific information of the disk from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the disk;

a determining unit determining whether contents of the disk are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

a permitting unit permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being correct; and

an inhibiting unit inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being incorrect,

wherein said optical disk drive is a read-only optical disk drive, and when the acquisition of the specific information from the disk is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on a kind of error information obtained by the acquiring unit.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A read-only optical disk drive which determines authorization of a rewritable optical disk having a read-only area and a rewritable area, comprising:

a system control unit controlling the entire optical disk drive;

an optical head irradiating a light beam to the disk and performing reading/writing of information with the disk by the control of the system control unit;

a motor rotating the disk;

a position control unit performing a position control of the optical head and a rotation control of the motor by the control of the system control unit; and

a signal processing unit performing signal processing of data read from the disk by the control of the system control unit,

the system control unit comprising:

a first acquiring unit acquiring a first specific information of the disk from a wobbling groove of the disk;

a second acquiring unit acquiring a second specific information of the disk from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the disk, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;

a determining unit determining whether contents of the disk are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

a permitting unit permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being correct; and

an inhibiting unit inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the disk is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the disk is possible, the authorization of the disk is determined based on both a kind of error information obtained by the first acquiring unit and the acquired second specific information.

Claim 19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 18 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the disk is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the disk is impossible, the authorization of the disk is determined based on both error information obtained by the first acquiring unit and error information obtained by the second acquiring unit.